

RESOLUTION NO. _____, SERIES 2008

**A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER DEPUTY
MAYOR JOAN RIEHM**

Sponsored By: Councilwoman Tina Ward-Pugh

WHEREAS, Mary Joan Riehm, born on June 17, 1945 to Charles and Katherine Grigsby Riehm, lost her courageous battle with cancer on January 20, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Joan had a distinguished career in communications, public service and civic affairs that spanned more than three decades – beginning as a journalist at *The Courier-Journal* and culminating in her serving for 15 years as deputy mayor of the City of Louisville; and

WHEREAS, Joan's distinguished professional career began in 1968 as a journalist for *The Courier-Journal* reporting on religion and urban affairs, and as editor of its weekly environmental section; and

WHEREAS, her service to the City of Louisville began in 1974 when she was appointed by former Louisville Mayor Harvey Sloane to serve as his press secretary; and

WHEREAS, from 1977 to 1979, Joan served as director of communications for the Kentucky Department for Human Resources and, from 1979 to 1985, as manager of government relations for Humana, Inc; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Joan was the first woman to be appointed to serve as deputy mayor of the City of Louisville by newly-elected Mayor Jerry Abramson; and

WHEREAS, Joan served in that role until 1996 and, in her first term as deputy mayor, oversaw economic and community development, human services and educational initiatives and was the driving force behind a variety of city initiatives,

including downtown, waterfront and neighborhood development projects and the creation of programs like the Urban Workshops and the highly-respected Operation Brightside programs; and

WHEREAS, Joan left city government in 1996 to become a consultant specializing in public issues management and communication and, in that capacity, continued to serve her community and dozens of public service organizations; and

WHEREAS, Joan returned to local government in 2002, when she was invited by Mayor Abramson to co-chair his merger transition team, then to serve as one of his deputy mayors in the newly-merged Louisville Metro Government; and

WHEREAS, in her second term as deputy mayor, Joan served as chief point person for metro government's reorganization until retiring from city government in December of 2006; and

WHEREAS, Joan was recognized and respected nationally for her knowledge and expertise in local government reorganization and for her leadership in regional development efforts, including the 23-county Regional Leadership Coalition which she founded and chaired, and the Alliance for Regional Stewardship, which she chaired; and

WHEREAS, Joan was particularly passionate about women's issues, education, the environment and the beautification of Louisville; and

WHEREAS, Joan was a driving force behind the Benchmark 2000 project and the creation of Women 4 Women, and served with distinction on a variety of community boards, including Operation Brightside, Norton Healthcare, Louisville Central Area, Inc., Louisville Planned Parenthood, Jefferson County Air Pollution Control Agency,

Bellarmine University, University of Louisville's College of Business, Leadership Louisville and Leadership Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Joan was also the founder and chair of The Louisville Store; and

WHEREAS, Joan's tireless efforts in the community were duly recognized, as she was named one of the 50 most powerful people in Louisville by *Louisville Magazine*, Most Admired Woman in Politics by *Today's Woman* magazine, and was the recipient of many awards: the Jack Paxton Award for Service from Leadership Kentucky, the Jefferson Award for Community Service from Jefferson Community and Technical College, the Order of Merit Award from the University of Louisville Alumni Association, the Tower Award for Women Leaders from Presentation Academy; Alumna of the Year by Sacred Heart Academy and the University of Louisville College Of Business, and an Outstanding Catholic School Alumna by the Archdiocese of Louisville; and

WHEREAS, Joan Riehm was an extraordinary community servant, but also a beloved friend to countless citizens of Louisville who knew her and worked with her throughout her life:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON COUNTY METRO GOVERNMENT (THE COUNCIL) AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION I: This Metro Council recognizes and salutes Joan Riehm for her lifetime of service and her legacy of leadership in the City of Louisville and Louisville Metro; and for the indelible mark she has left in our hearts and in our community, through the countless programs, projects and initiatives she championed that have improved the quality of life in the city and region she called home.

SECTION II: This Resolution shall take effect upon its passage and approval.

Kathleen J. Herron
Metro Council Clerk

Jim King
President of the Council

Jerry E. Abramson
Mayor

Approval Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Irv Maze
Jefferson County Attorney

BY: _____